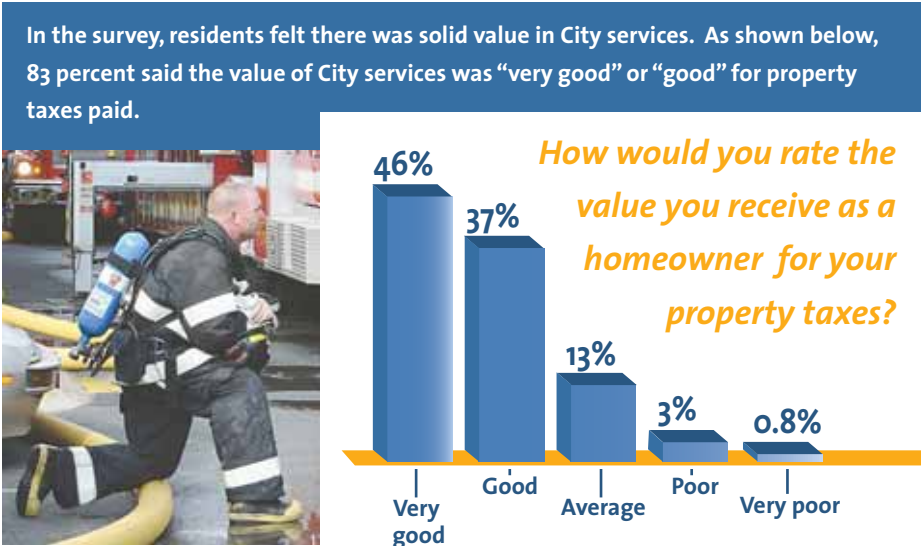


REACHING OUR GOALS

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2006

THE CITY PROVIDES QUALITY services that lay the groundwork for the future. As part of the Imagine Bloomington 2025 community outreach process, residents were asked for their input on how they envisioned Bloomington’s future. The service highlights of 2006 are compared with the results of a resident online survey conducted in October 2006.



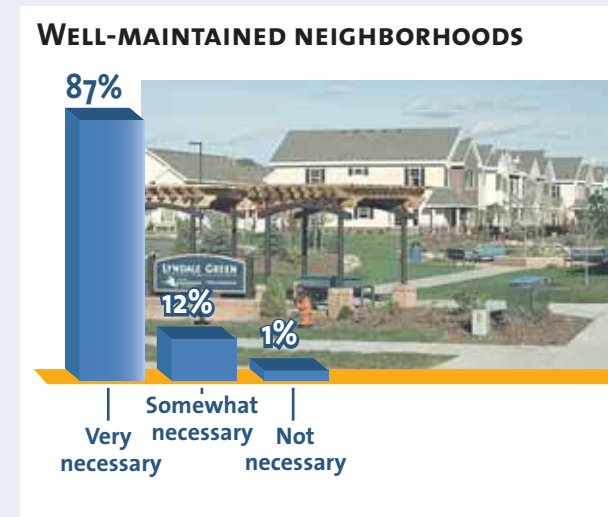
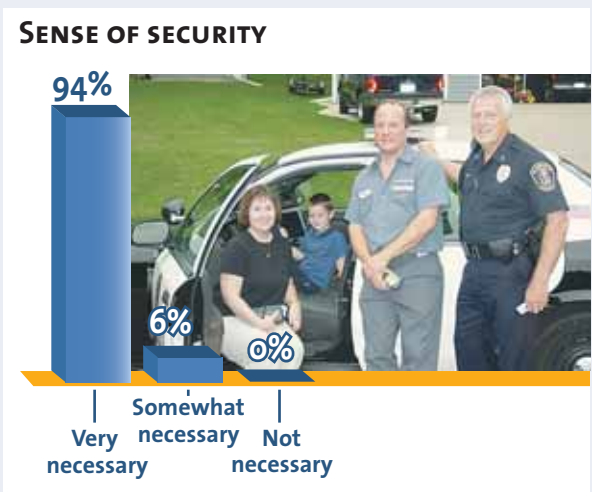
Imagine...

continued opportunities for green places to throw a Frisbee, play softball, take a walk or connect with nature. The City is undertaking a comprehensive update of Bloomington’s Park Master Plan that will establish a 20-year vision for park, recreation, open space, cultural and historical preservation, public art, and trail and bikeway systems.

How necessary are the following factors to quality of life?

SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

Proactive police services address a wide array of concerns from residents, including traffic safety, neighborhood disputes and crime prevention. *Neighborhood Watch* is comprised of residents who meet to discuss ways to reduce crime. An annual Police Department workshop trains and educates block captains so they can incorporate crime prevention techniques in their neighborhoods. Neighborhood Watch groups have grown from 24 in 1992 to 336 in 2006. To further ensure safe Bloomington neighborhoods and developments, Police have collaborated with other City departments since the mid-1980s to employ design elements in development projects that help deter crime.



IMPROVING NEIGHBORHOOD APPEARANCE

Bloomington’s programs to encourage maintenance and improve neighborhood appearance have been in place since 1994. The City’s goal is to increase compliance with ordinances and reduce the need for complaints by informing residents of City Code requirements. The *Community Enhancement Program* promotes education and enforcement of zoning regulations, nuisance abatement and property maintenance to address violations proactively before they become complaints. The result is greater compliance after the initial correction order, as compared to compliance with orders issued after a complaint was filed.

In 2006, the third phase of the Community Enhancement Program addressed specific blocks instead of entire neighborhoods, allowing for more thorough inspections and focusing on locations where most complaints occur. Of the 305 properties inspected in 2006, 60 percent were given correction orders. Currently, 6 percent, or 19 homes inspected in 2006, have unresolved code violations.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The City completed three new parks in 2006.

A 1.6-acre public park, located at the center of the *Bloomington Central Station* development, created a space for people to gather. The \$3.5 million park was funded with \$800,000 in transit-oriented development grants from Hennepin County and \$2.7 million in grants from the Metropolitan Council.

Lyndale Green Park, 84th Street and Lyndale Avenue, features an arbor, seating plaza, paved walkways, natural gardens, a swinging bench and open lawn. The one-acre public park is a cooperative effort between Bloomington-based United Properties, the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority and the City. United Properties contributed \$150,000 toward construction costs for the \$300,000 project.

Cedarcrest Park, 86th Street and Bloomington Avenue, features a water-play area, playground equipment, tennis and basketball courts, paved walkways, picnic tables, benches and landscaping. Cost of improvements was \$298,000. The project was a cooperative effort between Cedar Valley Church and the City.

PROGRAM PROLONGS PAVEMENT LIFE

The City has a successful program for maintaining the life of Bloomington’s streets. The *Pavement Management Program* (PMP) identifies, inventories and tracks street conditions to ensure that the appropriate maintenance is done at the appropriate time. The results are prolonged pavement life and reduced overall costs to property owners. The PMP was initiated to keep an already good maintenance program rolling for Bloomington’s aging streets. In 1992, it was predicted that if no program were adopted, more than 45 percent of streets would fall into the problem category by 2012. Since the program began more than 15 years ago, less than 5 percent of streets are currently in the problem category.

